

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given to the Official Action of February 20, 2003 and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The renumbering of the claims by the Examiner has been noted and is ratified. The claims will be considered hereafter on the basis of their renumbering.

The Examiner's remarks concerning the non-consideration of the Finnish patents, apparently due to their being illegible, has been noted and this matter will be taken under advisement and applicant reserves the right to file a corrected Information Disclosure Statement in due course.

Amendatory action has been taken in the specification to provide section headings in accordance with 37 CFR 1.77 and to correct several minor informalities.

The rejection of the claims on cited art has been noted and appropriate amendatory action has been taken in the claims in order to clearly distinguish them from the cited art. Additionally, claims 16 and 17 have been added and are included in the elected invention. Also, amendatory action has been taken in

claim 2 to indicate that the air which is blown against the lower surface of the glass is the same air as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 as being anticipated by US 4,620,864 (McMaster). McMaster discloses gas jet pumps that supply gas jets from an external gas supply. These gas jets constitute a primary gas flow that induces a secondary gas flow. In the invention, however, the process is totally different. In the invention air is sucked from inside the tempering furnace. The air sucked from the tempering furnace is pressurized outside of the tempering furnace and the pressurized air is thereafter blown onto the upper surface of the glass.

Claim 1 now adds the feature that the air sucked from the furnace is pressurized outside of the furnace. This feature makes a very clear difference between claim 1 and McMaster. In the invention, the effect of the circulated and pressurized air is much more effective than the relatively small secondary gas flow induced in McMaster by the primary gas flow.

Claim 1 is further rejected as being anticipated by US 5,647,882 (Thiessen). Thiessen discloses circulating air inside the furnace. Also the blowers are situated inside the furnace. In the invention, however, the air sucked from the furnace is pressurized outside of the furnace. Therefore, the pressurizing equipment does not have to withstand the high temperature that

prevails in the furnace. Thus, the equipment is rather simple and yet the heating effect of the blown air is rather high.

Claims 5-7 are rejected as being unpatentable over McMaster in view of US 4,773,926 (LeTemps et al.). However, LeTemps et al. does not disclose the features of the independent claim and therefore claims 5-7 are also considered patentable.

Claim 17 which has been added is directed to the feature where the upper and lower surfaces of the glass are separately blown by recirculated air which is separately and respectively pressurized by compressors 10a and 10b along separate independent paths. In McMaster the recirculating air is supplied by a single recirculating pump to the upper and lower blastheads. As previously explained, Thiessen does not recirculate air from within the tempering furnace through a separate compressor outside the furnace which then re-supplies the pressurized air back to the upper and lower surfaces of the glass by separate independent compressors.

For the above reasons it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now
in allowable condition and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JH Cohen', written over a horizontal line.

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